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Henry Smith and Sons,
Contractors and Builders,
116-120 S. Regester Street,
Baltimore.

Baltimore, May 13, 1903.

Hon. H. Murray Vandiver,
Chairman State House Commission,

Dear Sir:

We beg to advise you of the labor strike of bricklayers, employed on the State House, Annex, Annapolis, Maryland, for which we are the Contractors. The case is as follows: We sub-contracted for the brickwork with Mr. George Jewell of Annapolis, Maryland, we paying him a stipulated rate by the thousand bricks; he to employ the labor to lay the bricks; all materials are paid for by us directly. Mr Jewell has endeavored to overdraw his account, and there being no money due him last Saturday, May 9, 1903, he failed to pay off his hands, and they in turn stopped work on Monday, May 11th, 1903. Mr Jewell abandoned the work and so verbally stated to our Attorney, Mr. Moss. We notified the U. S. Fidelity & Guaranty Company, who furnished bond for Mr. Jewell to us. This Bonding Company is not inclined to do anything in the matter. Our Attorney advised us to take up the brickwork ourselves, giving it to someone else or do it ourselves in view of the fact, that Mr. Jewell had abandoned the work. The striking bricklayers informed us, that unless they were paid at once, including a half a day for waiting time, while they were not working, they would stop all work on all contracts we have on hand, but if they were paid at once, then they would release all claims against us. In view of this fact and to avoid all delays, we paid them on Tuesday morning, May 12, 1903 in full of all their demands. As soon as they had received this cash, they immedi-

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ately demanded another day's pay for Tuesday, May 12, 1903, as if such payment was made they agreed to release all their claims against us and the building and would not interfere with the work going on: we immediately paid them again, namely, Tuesday, May 12, 1903. We had in accordance with our Attorney's advise, made arrangements to have the brick-work resumed by Mr. William E. Feldmeyer of Annapolis, Maryland. He appeared with his working force this morning, Wednesday, May 13, 1903, but the Union refused permission to have the work resumed. As we are a party to a contract with your Commission, representing the State of Maryland, we respectfully make you acquainted with such existing conditions and appeal to you to give us, on behalf of the State some protection, if such laws are in existence. It will be quite impossible for us to complete the work on time, unless we can get protection on the State Reservation.

Very respectfully,

Henry Smith & Sons,



ISIDOR RAYNER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
RAYNER BUILDING, BALTIMORE, MD.

May 20th., 1903.

Hon. Murray Vandiver
State Treasurer,
Annapolis, Md.

Dear Sir:-

I do not see from the letter of Henry Smith and Sons, what the State House Commission can do in his matter. I do not understand what is meant by "furnishing protection" and what sort of protection is called for, and therefore cannot understand how the State can help them in any way.

Yours truly

Isidor Rayner